Rehabilitation of Patients suffering from Leprosy

6673. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated any serious efforts during the past few years to rehabilitate leprosy patients in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Leprosy Eradication Programme has proved a failure; and

(d) if so, the steps Government now propose to take to rehabilitate leprosy patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Under the National leprosy Eradication programme, in addition to medical rehabilitation, a Pilot Rehabilitation project has been formulated which envisages the following:

(i) Adequate provision for disability care including reconstructive surgery facilities;

(ii) Vocational training; and

(iii) initial one time financial support for their needing rehabilitation

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal for Radical changes in Medical Education

6674. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical Council of India is contemplating to effect wide-ranging changes in medical education including a new curriculum for the national examination for post graduates and centralised system for junior residency in the Central Government Colleges;

(b) if so, how soon this is going to be finalised by the Medical Council of India; and

(c) what are the major changes proposed to be introudced in the curriculum?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Spread of Aids through Artificial Insemination

6675. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the artificial insemination becoming increasingly popular for overcoming the infertility in Delhi and else where, the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases is coming to light and according to one estimate, as many as 600 people are being affected every month in Delhi alone; and

(b) if so, what urgent steps are being taken by Government to stop the dreaded disease from spreading rapidly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any such estimation. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has appointed a committee 'of experts for suggesting guidelines for artificial insemination.